

**FIRE-RESCUE FACILITIES BOND ISSUE BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE**  
**100 NORTH ANDREWS AVENUE**  
**8th FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM**  
**FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA, 33301**  
**THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2015**  
**6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

<b><u>MEMBERS</u></b>		<b><u>Present</u></b>	<b><u>Absent</u></b>
Thornie Jarrett, Chair	P	1	0
Douglas Meade, Vice Chair	P	1	0
Nadine Hankerson	P	1	0
Allan Kozich (6:15 – 6:55 p.m.)	P	1	0
Steven Mayer	A	0	1
Patrick McTigue (arr. 6:10 p.m.)	P	1	0
Frederick Nesbitt	P	1	0
Bryson Ridgway	A	0	1
Doug Ruth	P	1	0
Frank Snedaker	P	1	0

**Staff**

Carlos Acosta, Senior Project Manager and Committee Liaison  
Jamie Opperee, Recording Secretary, Prototype, Inc.

**Communication to the City Commission**

**By unanimous consensus**, the Committee agreed to recommend to the City Commission that the money from the sale of the property at 825 East Sunrise Boulevard, which was originally designated for construction of Fire Station 29, be put toward the fire bond program.

**I. Call to Order/Roll Call**

Mr. Acosta called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

**• Quorum Requirement**

As of this date there were 10 appointed members to the Committee, which means 6 would constitute a quorum. It was noted there was a quorum at the commencement of the meeting.

**II. Election of Chair and Vice Chair**

Mr. Acosta suggested that they meet at 5:00 p.m. instead of 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Nesbitt commented there has not been much progress in three years, and did not want to meet unless there was some issue to discuss. Mr. Snedaker felt that every other month was a good goal to keep the program moving.

*[Mr. McTigue arrived at 6:10 p.m.]*

Mr. Jarrett stated that if they do not meet and get commitments from the City Commission, nothing will be accomplished.

Mr. Acosta recommended they meet every other month; and if there is nothing to meet on, it was recommended that the Chair of the Committee have the discretion to cancel the meeting.

Mr. Jarrett volunteered to be Chair and all voted in favor. Mr. Meade volunteered to be Vice Chair and all voted in favor.

### **III. Staff Liaison Report**

- **Design – FS 8, FS 13, FS 54**

Mr. Acosta referred to the distributed report, which contained the available budgets for each fire station.

#### **FS #54**

Mr. Acosta mentioned that on May 5, 2015, the City Commission approved entering into contract negotiations with Pierce, Goodwin, Alexander, and Linville Inc. (PGAL), design consultants. Scope of services and terms of compensations are the remainder of the design (now at 90%); the consultant will evaluate progress. Mr. Snedaker predicted there would be a lot of redesign due to changed building standards. He added it is different from other stations due to its area, flood criteria, etc.

Mr. Acosta stated that there is no architect of record at this time, and when the new one comes on, they have to perform a detailed analysis of all work done so far and prepare the plans for construction. The plan also includes having them inspect future work as it is being performed.

*[Mr. Kozich arrived at 6:15 p.m.]*

There was a brief discussion on the circumstances concerning the departure of the previous architect. Mr. Acosta remarked that the City Engineering Department will review the plans submitted by PGAL Inc.

Mr. Acosta added that the City will begin asbestos remediation on the existing fire station on May 18, 2015. Once it is removed, demolition of the building by the City

should begin in August. Mr. Acosta explained that the City is doing the remediation and demolition in exchange for a land swap.

Chair Jarrett was curious how the cost of the temporary building went from \$250,000 to \$850,000. Mr. Acosta said that the design of the new fire station should be done in April, 2016, and they will be using the temporary building for some time after that.

### **FS #8**

Mr. Acosta reported that Fire Station #8 also has a land swap related to it, pending approval from the National Environmental Protection Act and the Federal Transit Administration. If the approval occurs in May, the land swap will occur on June 12, 2015. He then reviewed the details of the land swap.

Mr. Acosta stated they are negotiating with CPZ Design Consultant on the scope of services and fees. Discussion ensued about previously contracted consultants and previously considered locations for the station.

Chair Jarrett recalled there was no money in the bond issue for land, except for the new Fire Station #8. Nobody considered that newer stations would not fit on the footprints of the older, smaller stations, so then they had to carry out the land swaps to obtain more room. It was pointed out that the current location may not be ideal, but land was available there.

### **FS #13**

Mr. Acosta reminded the Committee they are still waiting on the response (due in April) from Antioch College whether the City will be able to get the land to fit the fire station on. After approval from the College, the matter will go to the State; they will take up to eight months to deliver a decision to proceed.

Mr. Acosta continued there have been initial meetings with Akai to define scope of services; but, without the land, it was a moot point.

It was pointed out that the reason Intracoastal access is needed there is to be able to create the potential to have a fire boat further north than at FS #49. Discussion ensued on the possibility of the station having a beach rescue/lifeguard unit housed there.

Mr. Snedaker commented that the only two locations available for the station are at Intracoastal or the current site. It was noted that the State would like the fire station at the Intracoastal (park) site, since it would keep vagrants away. The station could be positioned where the bridge is, and the current parking lot could be the entrance to the station.

Discussion ensued about the fire boat, with the comment being made that they do not have an assigned crew. When there is a call, an engine goes out of service, and those personnel man the boat.

It was brought up that the City Manager stated at the Budget meeting the previous night that getting another (ocean) fire boat was a top priority. Discussion continued on the likelihood of getting another boat, the condition of the boats themselves, security, and getting personnel for them.

Mr. Snedaker wondered if the distributed budgets were comprehensive (including equipment, design, construction, and the kitchen, but not the vehicles), and Mr. Acosta replied the documents reflected what was "on hand." He continued that once they finalize negotiations with the design consultants, he will have more accurate figures for design. Construction costs depend on the completed design.

Chair Jarrett recommended that they ask for a budget, even if it is rough. He wanted to see a breakdown for each of the three stations; the breakdown should include all design fees, management fees, and construction costs. Chair Jarrett said they need a copy of "Exhibit A," which defined the bond, and how much should be spent on each station. Mr. Snedaker requested a "reasonable budget" for each station for the next month.

Mr. Nesbitt also wanted to see an accounting of what has been spent so far to determine what is left. Mr. Snedaker thought that Kim Holcombe should have that information.

Mr. Snedaker brought up the property at 825 East Sunrise, and it was noted it is for sale; the money did not come out of the fire fund. When it was purchased, it was to be for Fire Station #29. It was mentioned that the City Commission would have to determine the disposal of funds.

Mr. Snedaker continued that they need to send a status report to the City Commission when they figure out how much money they have.

Mr. Ruth recommended asking the City Commission to send a representative to Antioch College to get something done. Chair Jarrett thought staff should do that; Mr. Snedaker said they have been negotiating for less than two years. Discussion ensued on what course of action to take from "going to court" to letting staff deal with it. Mr. Acosta remarked that the College Board only meets twice a year, and that has been part of the delay.

*[Mr. Kozich left at 6:55 p.m.]*

Mr. Snedaker wished to see a Microsoft Project schedule of all the major stages for the stations, including design stage, bid stage, construction, etc.

Chair Jarrett would like to see the level of plans at this point for the three stations, and asked if that could be sent to the Committee members in a PDF format. Printed copies could be provided at the meeting. He requested that the information be made available as soon as possible, not right before the meeting. Mr. Acosta said they would get an emailed update every month. He added the plans themselves might be too large to email. One Committee member said he would set up some PDF files on Dropbox so they could be accessed.

Vice Chair Meade also wanted a listing and budget for provisioning of the firehouses. It was pointed out there was a budget for \$300,000 for furnishings, radio alerting system, wiring for data and phones, etc.

Mr. Acosta recapped that they wanted a breakdown on the design, construction, a realistic timeline, schedule of fees for the accounting portion, plans in PDF files (he can break them down into smaller files), one complete printed set of plans for the next meeting, financial accounting of the fire bond funds, and where money has gone in the last three years.

#### **IV. Communication to the City Commission**

Mr. Snedaker opened discussion about the 825 East Sunrise Boulevard property, specifically where the money will be spent.

**By unanimous consensus**, the Committee agreed to recommend to the City Commission that the money from the sale of the property at 825 East Sunrise Boulevard, which was originally designated for construction of Fire Station 29, be put toward the fire bond program.

Chair Jarrett pointed out that the City saved money by building Fire Station 29 on the original property.

At this point, self-introductions of the Committee members occurred.

Chair Jarrett read the mission of the Committee. He recommended that all Committee members speak to their City Commissioner about what is happening with the fire project. Chair Jarrett spoke of the terrible conditions at old fire stations, such as the one on 27 Avenue.

Mr. Meade wanted to tour one of the new stations; Mr. Snedaker advised him to call Division Chief Botting to set up a tour. It was also suggested he go to Fire Station #35 or #49 as an example of #13 might be.

Mr. McTigue opened a brief discussion of the history of the land for Fire Station #49.

**V. Adjournment**

Mr. Acosta said the next meeting is scheduled for July 9, 2015, and discussion ensued about what the meeting time should be. Mr. Acosta will check the calendar and email potential dates and times to the Committee.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

[Minutes prepared by J. Rubin, Prototype, Inc.]

Attachments:

Fire Station Progress Reports – Carlos Acosta